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State of Illinois

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



Department of Employment Security

James P. Sledge, Director

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Guide To Career Choices

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

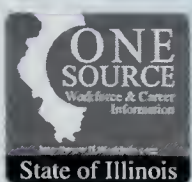
A brief look at:

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook

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agriculture, food & natural resources

guide no. 1

ENTRY : the mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation

MEDIAN : half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less

EXPERIENCED : the mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation

HS : High School diploma or equivalent

AD : Associate Degree of Arts/Science
community college, 2 years

BA/BS : Bachelor of Arts/Science degree
colleges/universities, 4 years

Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK		ANNUAL WAGES			Education & Training
	2014 Employment	Annual Openings	Entry	Median	Experienced	
Farmers	73,903	458	N/A	\$44,130	N/A	No formal education is required beyond high school. Taking courses in a second language such as Spanish is very helpful.
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	52,455	1,654	\$16,010	\$21,225	\$27,081	HS; work experience or specific training is not necessary.
Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products	20,821	670	\$36,135	\$57,486	\$82,115	May require a four-year degree as well as previous sales experience.
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	11,553	343	\$16,139	\$20,510	\$25,153	Short term on-the-job training is provided. No formal education is needed.
First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, & Groundskeeping Workers	8,540	161	\$24,561	\$35,153	\$45,811	HS; most advance as they gain experience.
Farm, Ranch, and Other Agricultural Managers	4,357	92	\$29,888	\$54,727	\$61,331	Completion of a four-year degree in a college of agriculture is becoming increasingly important.
Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	4,076	150	\$15,458	\$18,170	\$24,951	HS; some, like marine mammal trainers, require advanced degrees.
Veterinarians	2,602	80	\$43,459	\$65,431	\$82,290	Veterinary medicine programs usually take four years to complete. They award a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) degree.
Veterinary Technologists/Technicians	2,130	65	\$19,691	\$25,972	\$35,985	Most veterinary technology programs take two years to complete and grant an associate degree. Some four-year colleges and universities also offer these programs.
Farmworkers, Farm and Livestock	980	30	\$14,360	\$16,492	\$22,108	Most receive short-term on-the-job training. No formal education is needed.
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	607	16	\$21,825	\$32,912	\$43,029	AD; most begin as trainees and take on more responsibilities as they gain experience.

Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2014.

N/A data are not available

Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include commissions and cost-of-living allowances, but exclude overtime and tips.

Job Descriptions

Farm, Ranch, and Other Agricultural Managers

On a paid basis, manage farms, ranches, greenhouses, nurseries, or other agricultural establishments for employers.

Agricultural and Food Science Technicians

Work with agricultural scientists in food, fiber, and animal research and production. Assist with animal breeding and nutrition work.

First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Services, and Groundskeeping Workers

Organize or direct activities of workers engaged in landscaping or groundskeeping activities.

Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers

Duties may include sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, sprinkler installation, and installation of concrete masonry wall units.

Nonfarm Animal Caretakers

Feed, water, groom, bathe, exercise, or otherwise care for pets and other nonfarm animals, such as dogs, cats, ornamental fish or birds, zoo animals, and mice.

Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products

Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers where technical or scientific knowledge is required in such areas as biology, engineering, chemistry, and electronics.

Veterinarians

Diagnose and treat diseases and dysfunctions of animals.

Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse

Manually plant, cultivate, and harvest vegetables, fruits, nuts, horticultural specialties, and field crops.

Farmworkers, Farm and Livestock

Attend to live farm animals that may include cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, poultry, shellfish, and bees.

Farmers

On an ownership or rental basis, operate farms, ranches, or other agricultural production establishments which produce crops, horticultural specialties, livestock, poultry, finfish, shellfish, or animal specialties.

Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

Perform medical tests in a laboratory environment for use in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases in animals. Prepare vaccines and serums for prevention of diseases.

What is the job outlook?

Overall employment in the agricultural production industry is expected to continue to decline through 2014. The trend toward larger farms and more technological advances will limit the job opportunities to the point that almost all job openings will be due to the need to replace workers. However, employment in agribusiness and in the natural resources sector is expected to moderately increase. Many job openings will be in the landscaping and grounds maintenance sector, as the public is demanding these services to free up time for other activities and many older people are physically unable to perform these duties. Prospects should be best for agricultural workers employed by nurseries and greenhouses. Employment of agricultural managers, especially in livestock, is projected to rise, but more slowly than the average for all occupations. Applicants with required education should find ample opportunities given the limited supply of people pursuing careers in this field.

Where can I find more information?

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit **www.ILWorkInfo.com** to find out more about:

Career Planning: **Illinois Career Resource Network**
1-877-513-1987
des.icrn@illinois.gov

Labor Market Information: **LMI Source**
1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)
des.lmi@illinois.gov

Workforce Information: **Workforce Info Center**
des.workinfo@illinois.gov

For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois Employment and Training Center. Call 1-888-367-4382 to find the location nearest you.



www.ides.state.il.us

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Sources:
Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook."

